

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 6 February 1953

SUBJECT Air Force Department in the Ministry of the Interior

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(LISTED BELOW) 1 legendDATE OF
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1. After March 1950, a construction and a guard platoon moved to the VP headquarters at Adlershof airfield. A kitchen was also established there. In the summer of 1950, VP officer Heinz Zorn arrived with the cadre department, the signal unit, the supply unit, and the propaganda section. At that time, the official designation of the headquarters was "HVA, Branch Office Johannisthal". In the fall of 1950, VP General Heinz Kessler took over this headquarters. New departments were added to the headquarters in the course of time.
2. On 7 October 1952, a high-ranking VP officer addressed an audience assembled in the Schoeneweide railroad repair shop. Among others he mentioned that effective 7 October 1952, the HVA was redesignated "Ministry of the Interior - Air Force Department". The personnel of the headquarters was hardly affected by the change of the official designation.¹
3. VP General Kessler lived on Britzer Strasse at Niederschoeneweide, while Zorn, his chief of staff, lived at Karlshorst, Waterberg near the Hochschule fuer Plan Oekonomie (Institute for Planned Economy). On 17 November, Zorn returned from a leave.²
4. In about early November 1952, a meteorological section was attached to the VP air department in the Ministry of the Interior. About 15 officers and 1 or 2 clerks were assigned to this section. Six new officers were attached to the cadre department. During the period from 10 through 16 November, 30 to 35 men arrived at the headquarters for one day in order to pick up their uniforms. The total strength of the headquarters increased from about 400 to about 1,000 officers, NCOs and EA. Chief of the supply section of the headquarters was Captain Birk (fmu).
5. Except for the VP Kommandeure, the officers took their meals in a special officers messhall, while Kommandeure had a messhall of their own. One Lieutenant Richter (fmu) acted as mess officer. He was addressed as Genosse Lieutenant. [redacted] many VP members were ashamed of their new uniforms. Married VP members continued to live in their private flats.
6. On an overlay, [redacted] installations of Johannisthal airfield which are occupied by the VP air force department. Most of the buildings involved were constructed in 1952. On 19 November, [redacted] dismantling and excavation work northwest of the Zentrallager and the dispensary. The building site was

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about 500 meters square and belonged to the Deutsche Handels Zentrale - Ersatzteile (German Trade Central - Spare Parts Section).³

7. On 11 November, an undetermined number of special air force uniforms including fur jackets with hoods, fur trousers and fur boots arrived by truck at the VP air force department. [redacted] employed at the clothing stock room that each of these special uniforms cost 350 eastmarks.⁴

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8. [redacted]
Frequently trucked materials from a depot of the department to Kamenz, Angermuende and Cottbus. Details on the nature of the loads were not available.⁵

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1. [redacted] Comment. The attachment to the East German Ministry of the Interior of the central administrative headquarters for the three branches of services of the Kasernierte Volkspolizei was done for purposes of concealment. At an appropriate moment, a special ministry of national defense will probably be formed.

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2. [redacted] Comment. Major General Kessler is commander in chief of the VP air force, and Major General Zorn is his chief of staff.

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3. [redacted] Comment. For sketch of the installations of Berlin-Johannisthal airfield used by the headquarters of the VP air force, see Annex.

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4. [redacted] Comment. The central VP air force depot is attached to the VP air force headquarters in Berlin-Johannisthal.

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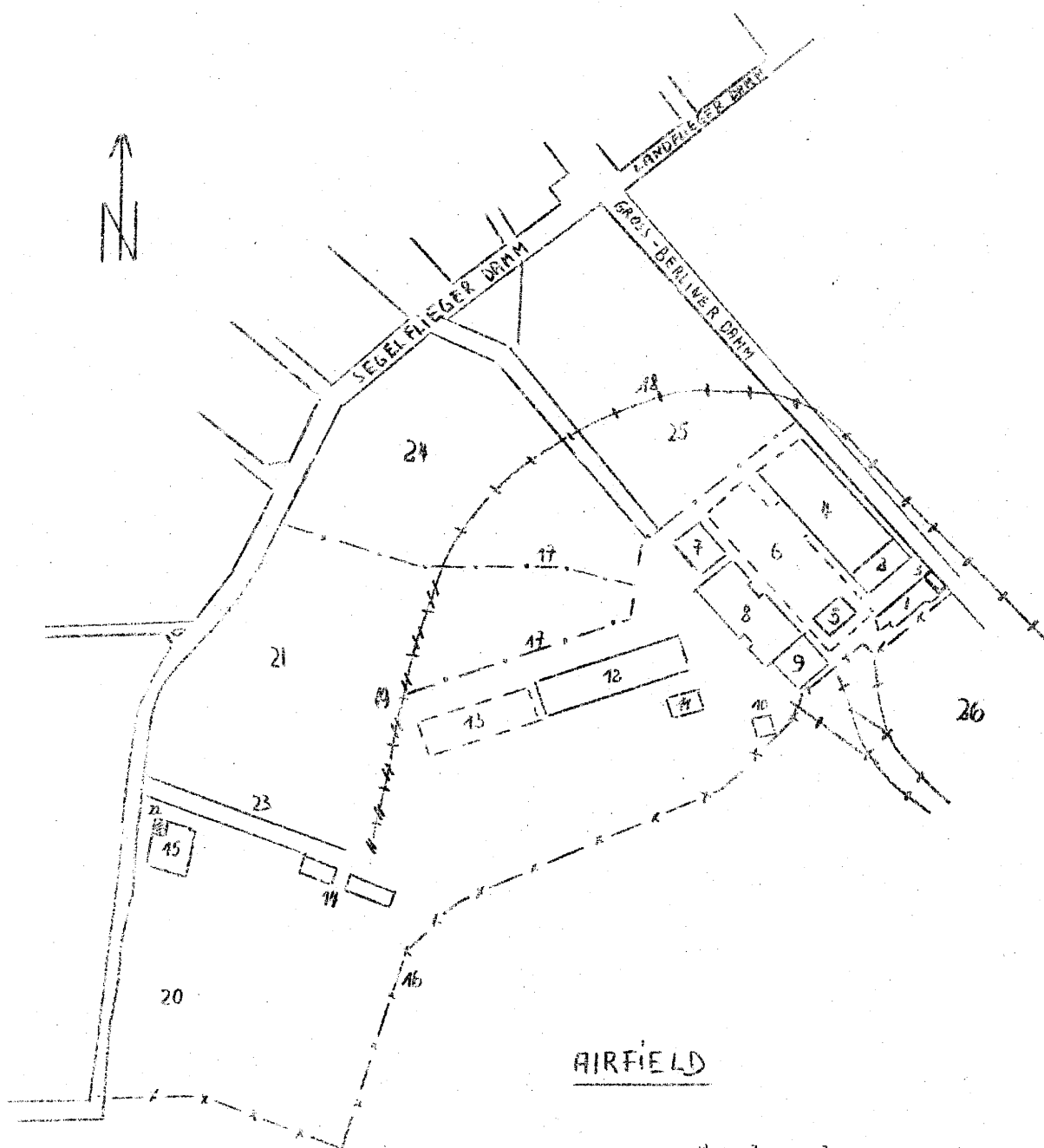
5. [redacted] Comment. VP air regiments are stationed in Cottbus and Kamenz, while Angermuende is mentioned for the first time in connection with the VP air force.

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Installations of Berlin-Johannisthal Airfield Used by
the VP Air Force Headquarters



For legend, see next page.

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Annex

Legend:

- 1 Large administration building
- 2 Small administration building
- 3 Guardhouse
- 4 Destroyed building which is being dismantled
- 5 Signal communication center
- 6 Site of a dismantled building
- 7 Dispensary
- 8 Central depot
- 9 Kitchen and clubhouse
- 10 Coal bin
- 11 Gymnasium
- 12 Motor vehicle garage
- 13 Site of a dismantled building
- 14 Temporary buildings occupied by guard personnel
- 15 Officers' billets
- 16 Fence
- 17 Brick wall
- 18 Spur track
- 19 Dismantled section of spur track
- 20 Athletic fields
- 21 Area of an refrigerator plant
- 22 Power house
- 23 Newly built road
- 24 Site of the Kraft-Maschinenbau firm Johannisthal (Power Engine Factory)
- 25 German Trade Central - Spare Parts Section
- 26 Site of the Lova plant

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